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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,998	02/15/2000	Yasuhiro Sato	NECF-17.054	8440

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EXAMINER

CHUNG, DAVID Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/504,998

Applicant(s)

SATO, YASUHIRO

Examiner

David Y. Chung

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239) in further view of Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774), Lee (U.S. 6,272,006), and Bovio (U.S. 6,202,256).

As to claims 1-5, Nagamura et al. discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30.

Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the main body of a lap top computer, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main

body 32 to the display 33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was a good way to allow the lap top to swivel shut.

Nagamura et al. and Gushiken et al. do not disclose forming two or more through holes in the projected portions of the display panel or the connection portions of the frame. However, it was well known and obvious to do this in order to more securely fasten the display panel to the frame and the frame to the hinge of a lap top computer. The disclosures of Lee and Bovio et al. are evidence of this. Note the plurality of screws 40 in figure 3 of Lee. Note the plurality of through holes 54 in figure 4 of Bovio et al. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form two or more through holes in order to more securely fasten the display panel to the frame and the frame to the hinge.

As to claims 6-10, Nagamura et al. discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30.

Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a lap top cover or a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the lap top main body, these elements were

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common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33. Note also housing 34 comprising walls 35a, 35b, 35c, 35d, and 35e. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a cover in a lap top computer with the display of Nagamura et al. in order to prevent collision damage.

Nagamura et al. and Gushiken et al. do not disclose forming two or more through holes in the projected portions of the display panel or the connection portions of the frame. However, it was well known and obvious to do this in order to more securely fasten the display panel to the frame and the frame to the hinge of a lap top computer. The disclosures of Lee and Bovio et al. are evidence of this. Note the plurality of screws 40 in figure 3 of Lee. Note the plurality of through holes 54 in figure 4 of Bovio et al. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form two or more through holes in order to more securely fasten the display panel to the frame and the frame to the hinge.

As to claims 11 and 13, although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hook portion on the frame of the display for maintaining a closed state in a laptop computer, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. discloses a

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conventional lap top computer housing structure. Figure 1 of Gushiken et al. shows hook portions near the upper left and upper right corners of the display frame. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a hook portion on the display frame of Nagamura et al. in order to maintain a closed state in a lap top computer because it was simple and cost effective.

As to claims 12 and 14, although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the lap top main body, or screws for fastening the hinge member, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33 via screw 81. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism and screws to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was secure and cost effective.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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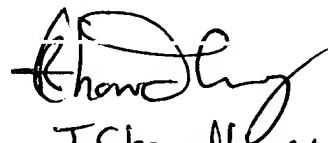
Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Chung whose telephone number is (703) 306-0155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

David Chung
GAU 2871
06/05/03


T. Chandhury
Primary Examiner